



# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



**November 14, 2013**  
**Kalispell, MT**





# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



## A Brief History

- **1990's to 2002:** Multiple studies conducted for a state-wide system under the coordination of the Montana Public Safety Communications Council.
  - Options for statewide network, conventional and trunking operations.
  - **Failed attempts to fund the system in based on this planning in 1999 and 2001.**





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- **2002-2004:** Lewis and Clark County developed a county-wide trunking system funded with:
  - Interoperable Communications Equipment (ICE) grant
  - A public safety mill levy
- **2004:** Funding Available - Northern Tier Consortium Formed
  - Twelve counties and four tribal nations along Montana's 545-mile (877 km) border with Canada
  - Funded with Homeland Security and state funds

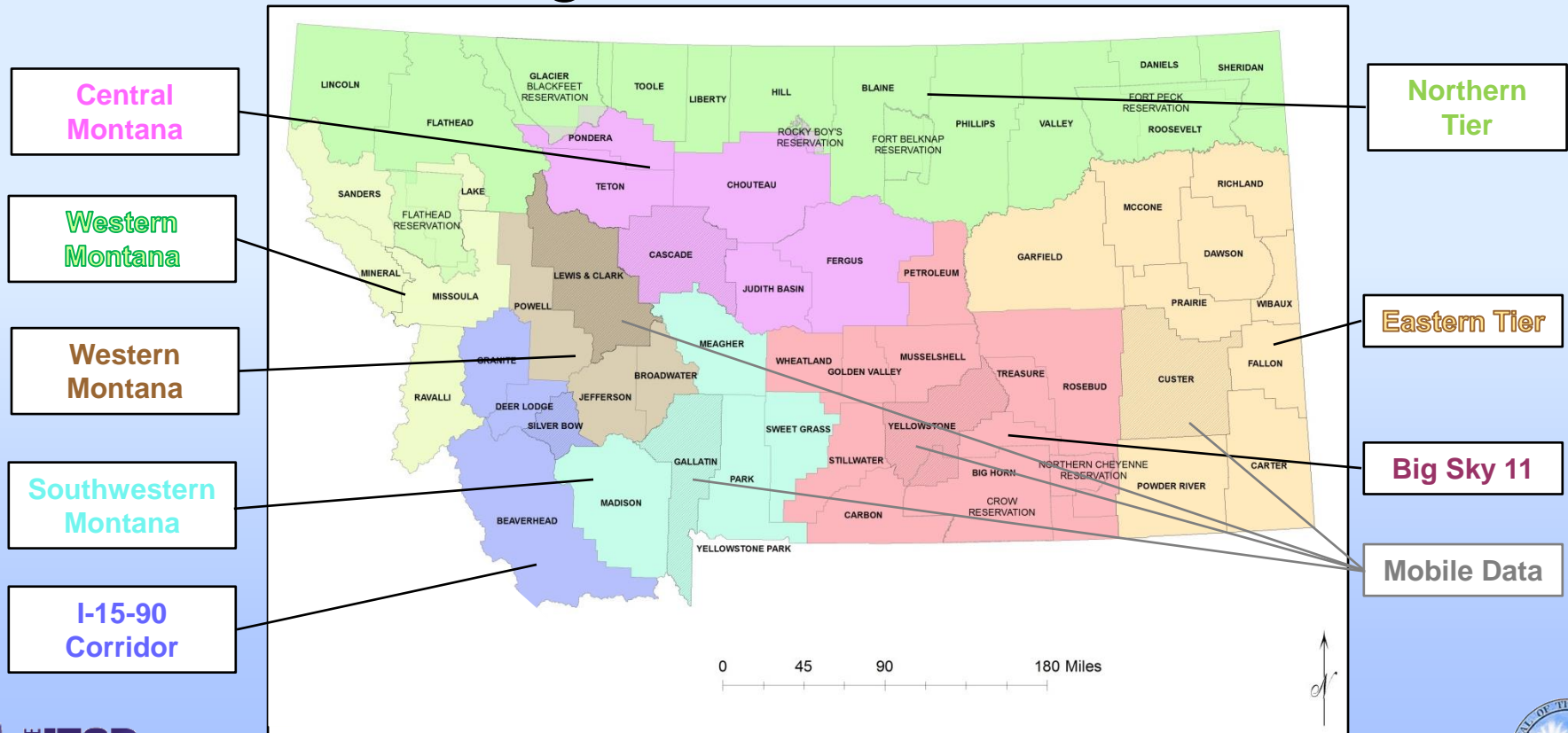




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- **2004-2006:** All counties and tribal nations formed into regional consortia:





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- **2005-2006:** Consortia and three State of Montana agencies signed an MOU to form the **IMPD board** of directors.
  - Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
  - Department of Transportation (DOT)
  - Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

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- **2007-2008:** The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was adopted and approved

## Interoperability Montana

### Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan

November 27, 2007





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- **2008:** The Interoperability Montana (IM) Project used Montana's "Interlocal agreement" laws to formally organize as an "Association of Governments."
- IM's incorporation allowed it to be directly awarded federal and state funding.
- IM hired an executive director and project management staff.







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- **2005-2011: IM Grant-Funded Projects** made substantial progress

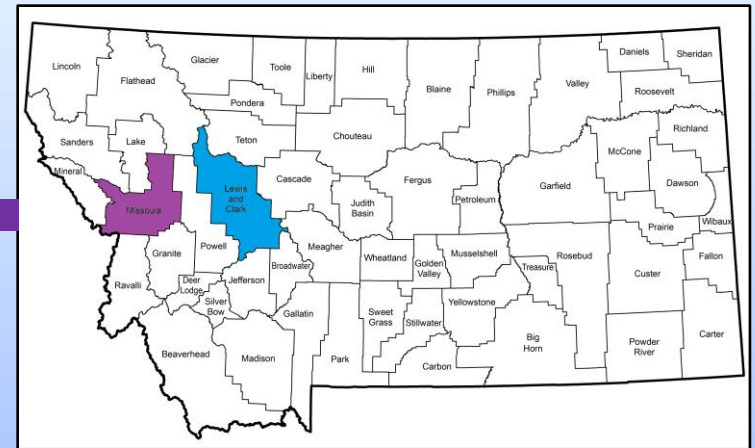
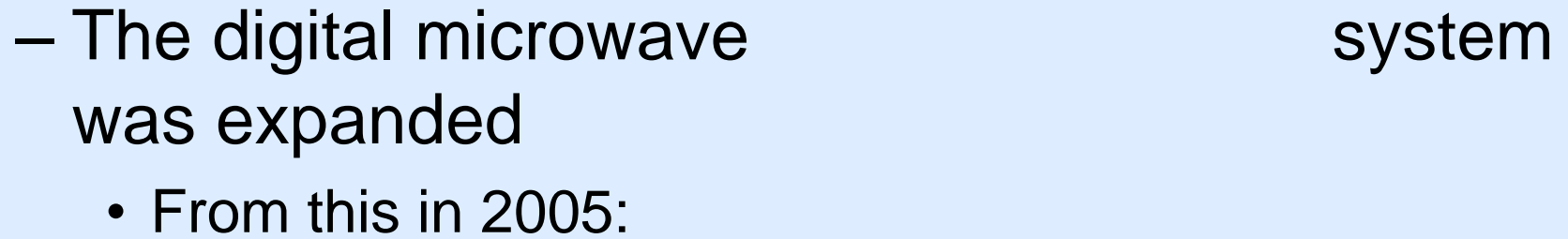
Culbertson Site Before



Culbertson Site After





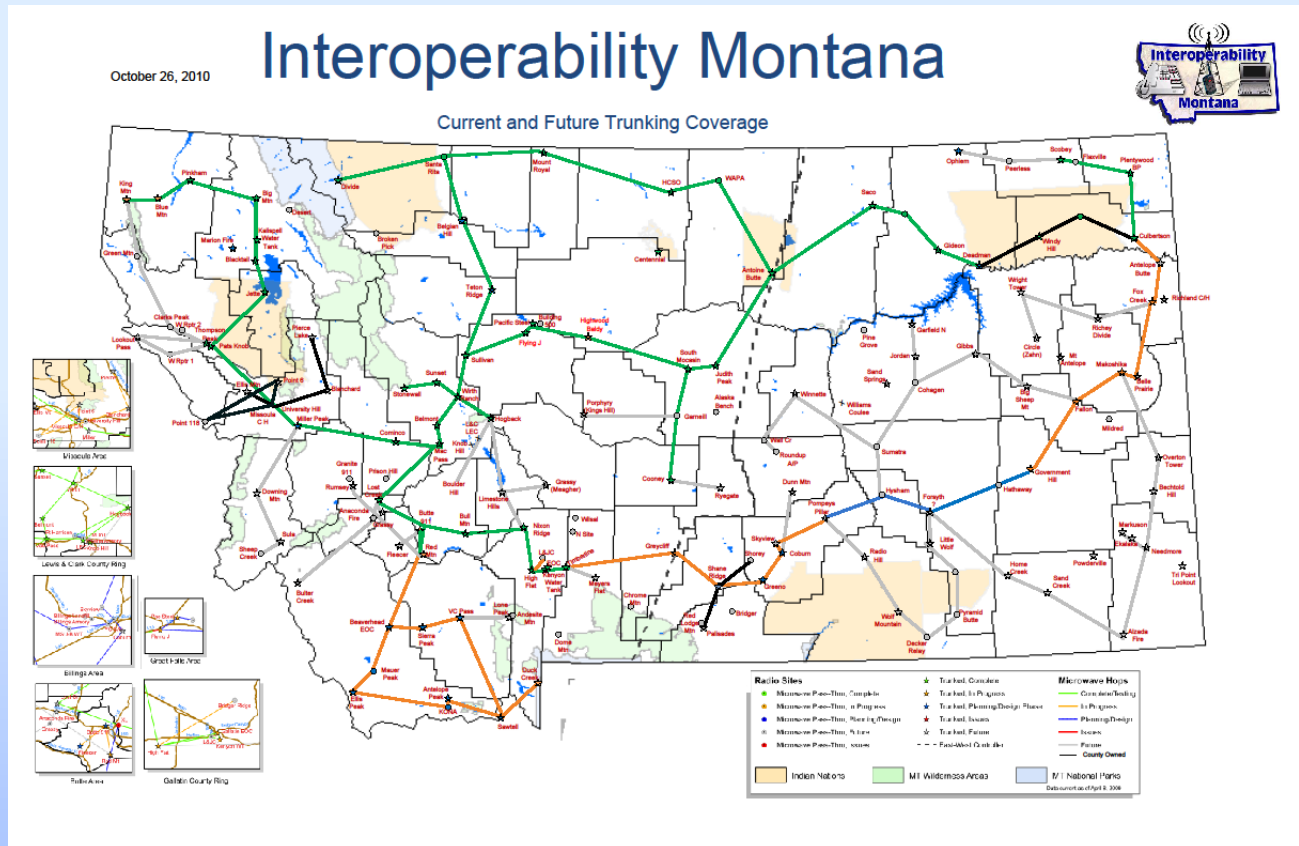




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## Microwave Plan: 2010



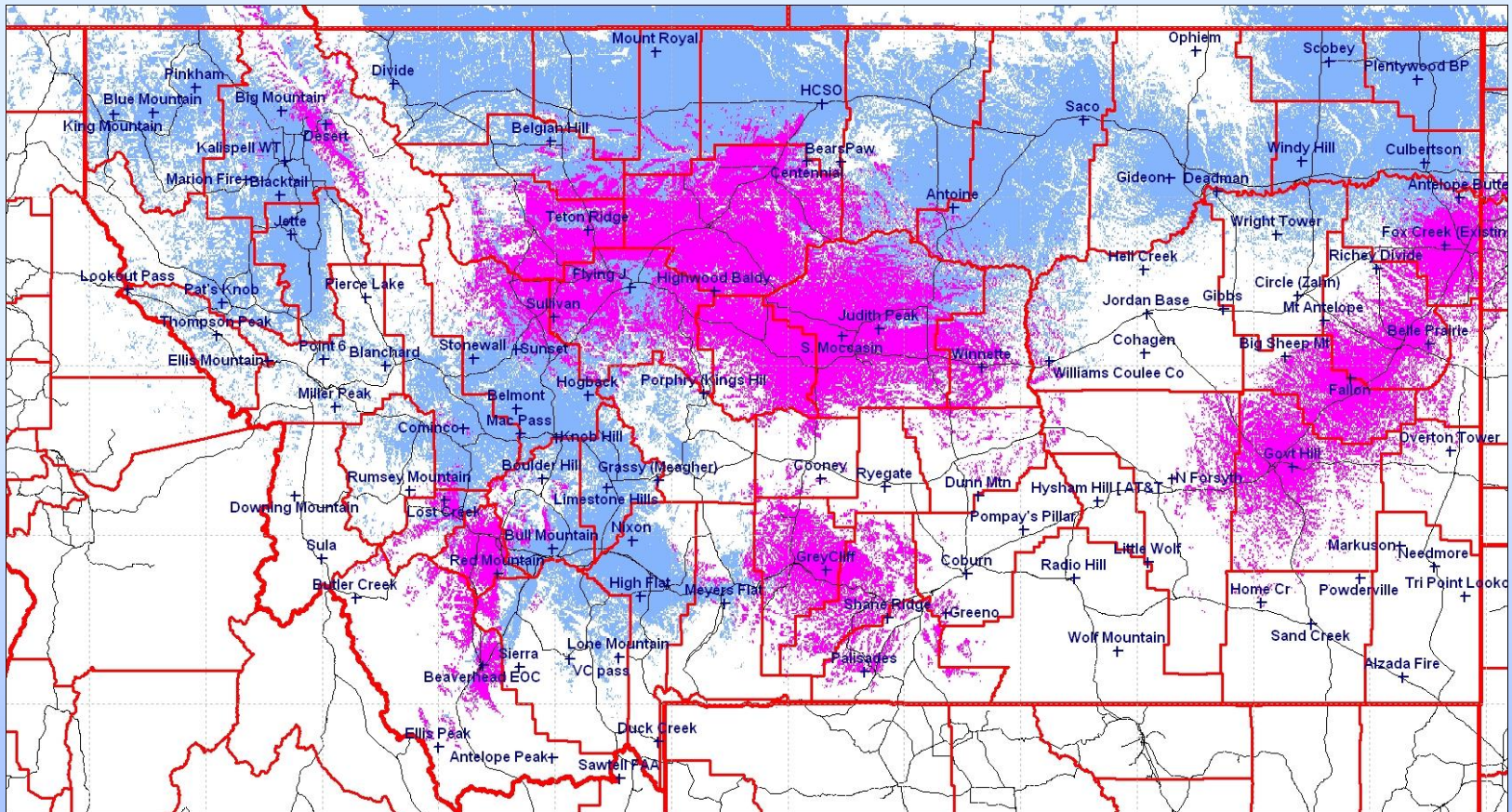




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Trunking 2011- Blue Complete/Red in Progress





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- June 30, 2011: IM Association ended
  - Cash Flow Concerns
    - Lack of administrative funding
    - Reduced federal grant dollars, which reduced money for administrative costs.
    - State of Montana funding also reduced
  - Local agencies could not agree on a long-term sustainable funding plan







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## Irony

The week following  
the vote to dissolve  
the IM Association,  
Interoperability  
Montana was  
awarded one of the  
seven Border  
Interoperability  
Demonstration  
Project grants.





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- Governor's Executive Order signed on Sept. 20, 2011 to establish the Montana Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB), a five-member board
  - To manage the orderly transition of Interoperability Montana (IM) assets.
  - To manage and oversee Montana's public safety radio system.
  - To make recommendations on funds used for public safety communications and interoperability.





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- Short-Term Objectives of the IM Transition
  - Keep installed assets operational and maintained
  - Protect current investments
  - Continue key projects that are in process
  - Transition federal grants from IM to local jurisdictions
  - Install interim management team
  - Manage operations and maintenance using a consortia of state agencies and several counties



# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



- Long-Term Objectives of the IM Transition
  - Establish a permanent Board of Directors
  - Re-evaluate and implement new governance and sustainability plans
  - Prepare for future Montana Legislative sessions a with sustainable business plan
  - Continue the build-out with stakeholder input on priorities



# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



- **Overall Goal: Build a statewide P-25 VHF shared trunked public safety land mobile radio system.**
- **Project Objectives:**
  1. Improve Public Safety Communication infrastructure sites in accordance with an established priority list.
  2. Expand digital microwave to key areas in compliance with Montana's Homeland Security Plan (HSSP) and the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).
  3. Populate key sites with trunking infrastructure, building off the existing Northern Tier and Lewis and Clark County systems.

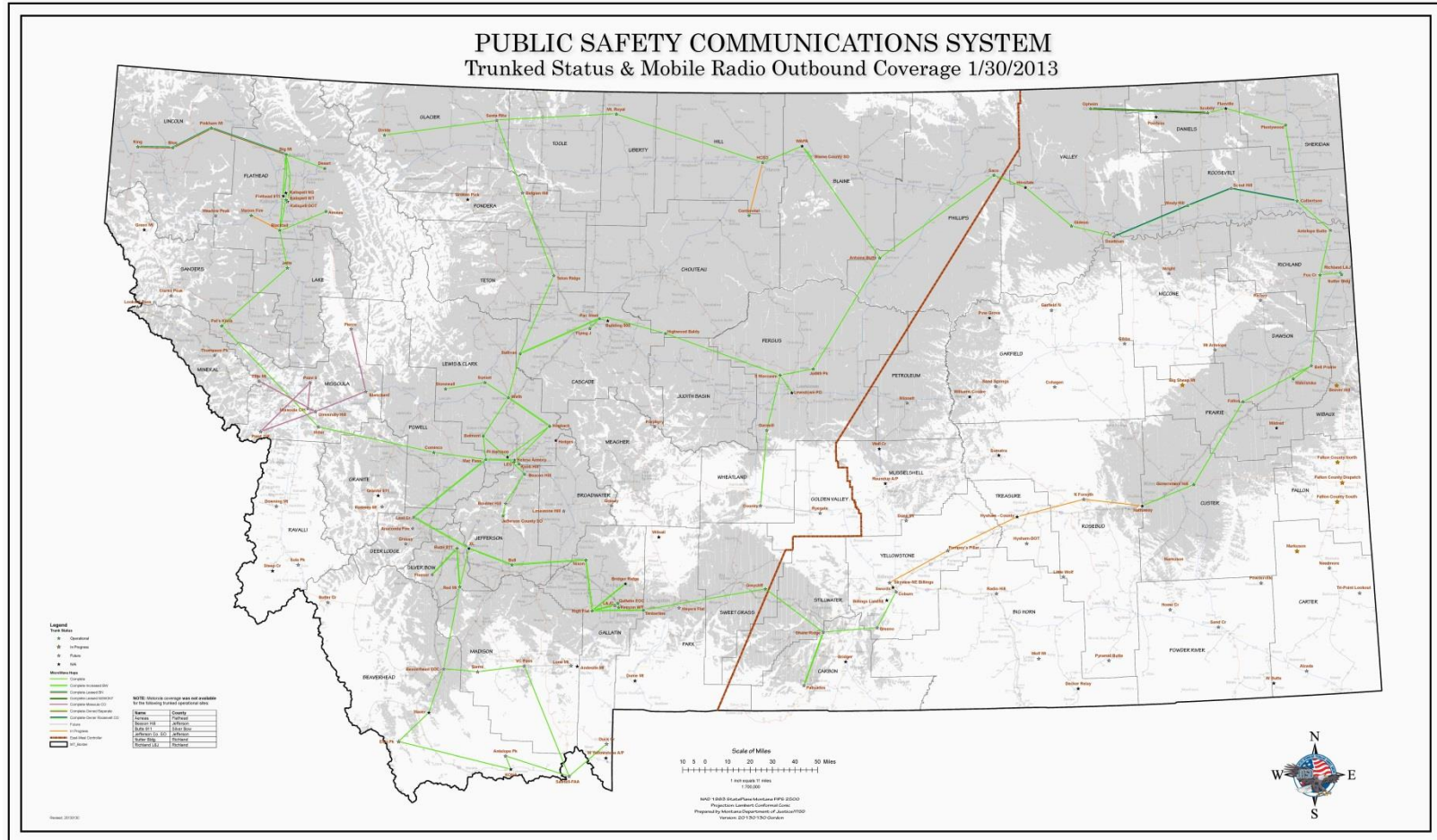


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4. Establish the second Master Site Controller in Eastern Montana.
5. Develop infrastructure, digital microwave and radio communications in the Billings region in response to the TICP exercise report.
6. Provide narrowband infrastructure equipment for local and state agencies that will not have the new system coverage by January 2013.







# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



- The Future.....
  - Governor Bullock Signed a new Executive Order 10-2013 on October 1, 2013
    - Reinstate the Statewide Interoperability Governance Board
    - Increase membership to 13 voting members and 2 non-voting members
    - Complete the final 3% of the interim goals, and plan for public safety communications future including Broadband







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## *The Speed of New Technology*





**FirstNet™**

# Utah Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



## The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012

- **Created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to:**
  - Advance communications interoperability through the deployment of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and broadband devices and applications



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## FirstNet Planning Process

**What is needed: FirstNet requires input from state, local and tribal jurisdictions (consultation through the Montana POC) to prepare network plans for state “opt-in or build your own RAN” decision. The Governor has 90 days to respond once FirstNet delivers its deployment plan. Due to Montana’s large land mass and small population, it is not economically feasible for Montana to “opt-out”.**



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## FirstNet Proposes:

- Shared infrastructure with existing cellular carriers
- Dynamic Priority Access: public safety has 20 mhz of dedicated spectrum
- Public Safety Grade
  - Reliable
  - Hardened
  - Redundant
  - Secure
- Public Safety Applications
  - 4G LTE for data and video
  - Non mission-critical voice



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- **Established a State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)**
  - To define the broadband coverage and application needs of public safety personnel, provide state consultation with FirstNet and inform public safety personnel of FirstNet offerings
  - Montana received \$1,816,415 (80%)
  - State match is \$454,104 (20%)
  - Grant award is for three years.



# Montana Statewide Public Safety Communications Project



## Governance:

- Expanded LMR Statewide Interoperability Governance Board...in addition to
  - Governors Office   Transportation   Justice   CIO
  - State Director of Indian Affairs
  - Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
  - Montana Fire Chiefs Association
  - Montana State Volunteer Firefighters Association
  - Montana EMS Association
  - Montana Association of Counties
    - Montana Association of Chiefs of Police
    - Montana Telecommunications Industry (non-voting)



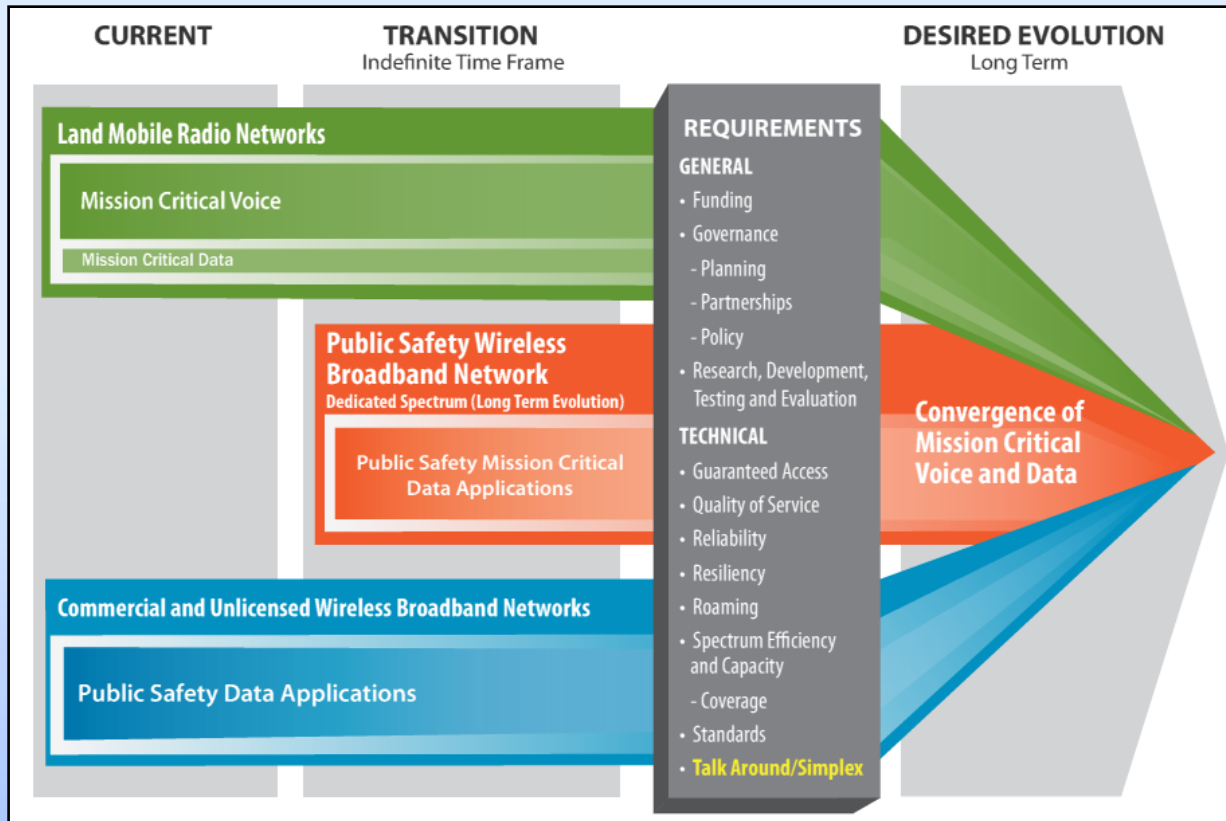




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## Public Safety Communications Evolution



This conceptual framework diagram from OEC/DHS outlines the inclusion of Broadband technologies while maintaining LMR networks to support mission critical voice communications until “Convergence” sometime in the future as yet to be defined.



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## Questions ?

**Scott Bradford**  
**Communication Technology Manager**  
**State of Montana**  
**Public Safety Communications Bureau**  
**[sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)**  
**406.444.2782**